



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 203 JULY, 2012

Tom Guthrie, who is working on the long-anticipated Guthrie history now that he has re-established his winery and farm after the fires, had a request – the nephew of Andrew Deakin has offered to do the foreword for the book, and Tom thought it would tie it in nicely if we could supply a photo or some account of grandfather Andrew’s laying of the foundation stone for the “public buildings” back in 1887. We explained that photos of events were not very likely back then, but could supply an extract of Deakin’s speech, which proved most satisfactory. Tom hopes to launch the book in 2014, the sesqui-centenary of the Guthries’ arrival at Rich Avon.

Peter Harvey from W.A. is on a 6 weeks’ tour of places connected with his family. Grandfather was James Harvey, who held the lease of Cope Cope Station. He had been given information about 10 years ago, but was delighted to receive a copy of the watercolour of Cope Cope Station

Some local questions answered too, which is good. Oliver Guthrie has bought an oak tree for planting in the park to recognise Queen Elizabeth’s diamond jubilee, and wanted to know who planted the oak for Queen Victoria, that still stands outside the Post Office. He was quite surprised to find there were two oaks planted, one outside the Court House as well. And another, with other trees, in the Albert and Victoria Gardens, established near “The Willows” (Willow Court).

With the back-to town tour in mind, Beth Hollis wanted the name of the first Principal of the High School in 1963, and some details of the present racecourse.

Items making news in the "Donald Times" 100 years ago

July 2, 1912: The new military order has been extended to Donald, and compulsory military training is a fact so far as this district is concerned. There is a general consensus of opinion that Australia must be placed in a position of greater security against possible invasion.

July 5, 1912: At the opening of the season for the Donald Enclosure Coursing Club the enthusiasm of the big crowd, including hundreds of feminine devotees who graced the event with their presence demonstrated that the Donald enclosure affords some of the best coursing in the State.

July 9, 1912. From Tuesday until Friday the scholars of the Higher Elementary School were striving to pour out through their pen-points all the knowledge possessed by them on arithmetic, algebra, geometry, English, Latin, geography, history and Civics, plant life, animal life, drawing and science. Taken all around the examinations prove that in Donald there are brains as good as brains anywhere.

July 12, 1912: At a meeting of the Donald Waterworks Trust it was decided to extend the main in Hammill Street east from Walker Street. Wherefor commissioners re greeted with rosy smiles by householders in that neighbourhood.

July 16, 1912: Good progress continues to be made with the erection of the Donald Agricultural High School. It is also a matter for gratification to those interested in its advancement that there is every probability of the Witchipool West School being removed to Donald.

July 19, 1912: An exceptionally cold snap was experienced on Wednesday morning. The temperature registered was 20 in the shade, and 12 below freezing point in the open. The surface of water everywhere was frozen, in some places nearly an inch thick. Heavy frosts are now almost a regular matutinal happening.

July 23, 1912: The implement works and private residence of Mr J. M. Harris, maker of the well known "Clinker" plough, were sold last week to Mr W.M. Hearn, the price being £595. Mr Harris is leaving Donald for Drouin where he intends to engage in dairy farming.

July 26, 1912: A crowded hall witnessed the Mock Parliamentary election held by the Watchem Debating club. There were three candidates: Mr Sorrell, Labor, Mr H. Walker, Liberal, Mr R. Donahue, senr, People's Party. Mr Donohue gained the support of the married ladies and their votes gave him a majority.

July 30, 1912: A social evening was on Friday last tendered to Mr W. Allan, the contractor for the plastering work at the new Donald Hotel. Musical and vocal items added to the enjoyment of a pleasant gathering.